



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

6:30 PM 625 Northport Dr. (Warner Park Community Recreation
Center)

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive.

Betty Chewning,

Parks staff present: Superintendent Kevin Briski, Si Widstrand, Jim Weinstock, Brad Weisinger, Dean Kahl, LaVonne LaFave, Laura Bauer

City staff present: Larry Nelson, City Engineer, Al Schumacher, Streets Superintendent,

President Barker called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was present and the meeting was properly noticed.

Present: 6 -

Michael Schumacher; William W. Barker; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarbrough and Betty N. MacDonald

Excused: 1 -

Joseph R. Clausius

A motion was made by Chewning/Scarbrough to take item V. C. out of order. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Registered Speakers:

Larry Nelson, City Engineer in support

Al Schumacher, Streets Superintendent in support

The 2008 budget requested a report regarding alternatives to improve stump grubbing and the street tree pruning cycles. Forestry has not been able to move from 15-year to 10-year pruning cycles because of staffing issues. All terrace trees are maintained by Forestry. They report terrace tree removals to the Streets Division. Streets then removes the stump and grubs it out. The backlog got greater and greater because of the difficulty of locating underground utilities. Stumps cannot be grubbed in the winter because many of the utilities have to be located by hand. The backlog in the past few years has grown to more than 600-700+ stumps. Streets has made a commitment to remove all stumps within 180 days and is working closely with Forestry because some trees need to be replanted in the same exact hole. Planting can only occur in spring or fall and the holes need to be ready when planting occurs. Because of that requirement, Streets bid out approximately 200 stumps at a cost of \$163.60 per average 20-inch stump. It costs the city \$311 to grub.

Dean Kahl, Forestry Operations Manager, then discussed the “big monster” on the horizon, an insect called the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB has been found in approximately 140 trees in two areas in Wisconsin and more infestations are being found in between those two areas. There has been no report on how the state will be dealing with this infestation. If it comes into Madison it will depend on the state and federal responses as to how Forestry deals with it. Currently, there is no good research on possible treatments to control EAB, but the research is ongoing. Forestry has been conducting an inventory of street trees to determine the number of ash trees in the city. The city stopped planting Ash trees in 2006.

The Report also identifies general items for consideration such as adding staff to take care of EAB infestations and the number of replacement trees to be planted. Questions were asked about the loss of forestry positions in the budget and what impact that will have on this proposal. An arborist position was lost but was returned in the supplemental request. The Report did not anticipate the current budget impact. The Report recommends that, if funds become available, the first priority would be to add additional arborists. The Streets Division is losing four people in the 2009 budget but should only have a minor impact on stump grubbing. The stump grubbing crew will still be functional.

Nelson stated that it would be very difficult to have underground utilities placed away from trees since the terrace area is not very large and trees and utilities are sharing the same space. The lines are mapped by the respective utilities and by state law when a “One-Call” is made, each utility must go out and mark their utilities but they mark to within 18 inches of the line.

President Barker noted he is always impressed with Forestry’s understanding of EAB and how proactive City Forester Eddy has been in educating groups. University Entomologists paint a very grim picture when discussing EAB.

A motion was made by Schumacher/Scarborough to accept Resolution #11695 Accepting the Staff Report on Alternatives to Improve Stump Grubbing, Street Tree Pruning Cycles and Preparation for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Wallner/Chewning to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of July 9, 2008 of the Park Commission with the following amendment on page two, paragraph four, sentence four is changed to read: “Community parks might allow some use of alcohol at special events.” **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** A motion was made by MacDonald/Chewning to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of August 13, 2008 of the Park Commission.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to comment on items not on

the Agenda.

IV. REPORTS

A. Ad Hoc Committee of Park Commission to Study Problem of Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks

A motion was made to accept the Minutes of the May 5, 2008 and September 25, 2008 meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Park Commission to Study the Problem of Alcohol and Related Behaviors in City Parks. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Scarborough stated that although the Final Report was sent to all Commissioners with this month's packet, discussion and final action will be delayed to the next meeting to allow everyone sufficient time to read the Report. President Barker thanked the Committee for its hard work. Scarborough commended LaFave for writing the Report. An article in the Wisconsin State Journal quoted the Report extensively.

Welcome Home is interested in fundraising to provide additional housing for homeless individuals. They currently support two homes for some of the individuals who had been camped out at Brittingham Park. It would be good if there was a mechanism whereby people in the community could donate money that could be used for this purpose.

B. Golf Committee

A motion was made by Scarborough/Chewning to accept the Minutes of the April 22, 2008 and June 24, 2008 meetings of the Golf Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Olbrich Botanical Society

A motion was made by Chewning/Schumacher to accept the Minutes of the regular meetings of Minutes of August 19, 2008 of the Olbrich Botanical Society. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Wallner/Schumacher to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting of Minutes of July 24, 2008 of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. President of the Park Commission

President Barker reported that the November Park Commission meeting has been changed to November 24 due to Common Council budget deliberations.

Last Friday, President Barker attended the Yahara Lakes Conference at Monona Terrace and met with state and UW personnel who were all talking about the health of Madison's lakes. One session was on how beaches are tested for bacteria. There is a huge amount of energy focused on improving water quality. It was eye opening on how much of our shoreline is under Parks purview. Parks should be making choices with regard to parking lots, erosion control, stormwater control, and vegetation in rain gardens to clean up the lakes.

He attended the installation of the Lantern in Beige sculpture at Carpenter Ridgeway Park and stated it was a perfect example of citizens working together to improve a park.

Finally he noted that tomorrow night Russ Hefty and the Parks Division will be receiving an award from the Wisconsin Wetlands Association in recognition of their years of effort in Cherokee Marsh.

F. Superintendent of Parks

A motion was made by Wallner/Chewning to accept the written Report of Supervisor's Activities. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A short statement detailing the various public meetings that have been, and will be, held on the Olbrich Park Land Use Master Plan was also distributed.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Request from Mary Caufield of the Waunona Neighborhood for approval of \$42,000 from the Parks Matching Fund Program for Thut Park Neighborhood Park Improvements.

Registered Speakers in support:
Katie Kazan
Melissa Colby

Widstrand reported that Parks supports the requested amount of \$23,000 from matching funds for the improvements in Thut Park. If the neighborhood raises additional funds, those funds will also be matched in 2009. This is a large request but is going to an area that has long been recognized as park deficient and Parks wants to encourage the neighborhood. The \$20,000 already raised will allow some of the items to be ordered this year for installation in spring 2009. In other neighborhoods, these projects have tended to come in smaller pieces over a number of years. Because this neighborhood hasn't had a park, they are doing it all at once. Other neighborhoods have used matching funds for the same types of things that the Thut Park neighborhood is requesting, i.e.

playground equipment and a small park shelter. This is a fairly isolated area between the Beltline and Lake Monona and is an effort to provide a large playfield, play equipment and provide a complete range of activities for the area. Its an important feature for a neighborhood that has been working on it for many years. Ald. Tim Bruer is very supportive of this project.

A motion was made by Chewning/Wallner to approve the Request from Mary Caufield of the Waunona Neighborhood for approval of \$42,000 from the Parks Matching Fund Program for Thut Park Neighborhood Park Improvements.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Request from Kent Hutchison to install a sculpture entitled Seabird in Law Park from November 2, 2008 through November 2, 2009.**

Registered Speaker:

Kent Hutchison in support

The Parks Division believes this is an opportunity for the city and Parks Division to encourage local artists. The artist will pay for the concrete pad either on his own or through an anticipated grant. The piece weighs approximately 100 pounds and is created from 16 gauge sheet steel. The artist described the kinetic movement of the piece. This type of project is not something that has ever been funded by matching funds.

A motion was made by Chewning/MacDonald to approve the request from Kent Hutchison to install a sculpture entitled Seabird in Law Park from November 2, 2008 through November 2, 2009. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- C. [11695](#)** Accepting the Staff Report on Alternatives to Improve Stump Grubbing, Street Tree Pruning Cycles and Preparation for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Scarbrough, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: 1 -

Joseph R. Clausius

Ayes: 6 -

Michael Schumacher; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarbrough; Betty N. MacDonald and William W. Barker

- D. [11918](#)** Accepting ownership of the sculpture "Lantern in Beige" by Sid Boyum, to be located at the entrance of the Carpenter-Ridgeway Park .

A motion was made by Schumacher, seconded by Chewning, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the MADISON ARTS COMMISSION. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: 1 -
Joseph R. Clausius

Ayes: 6 -
Michael Schumacher; David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning; Emanuel
Scarborough; Betty N. MacDonald and William W. Barker

- E. [12092](#) Authorizing the execution of an Underground Utility Easement to Madison Gas and Electric Company across a portion of Secret Places Park located at 6001 Sledding Parkway.

A motion was made by Scarborough, seconded by Schumacher, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: 1 -
Joseph R. Clausius

Ayes: 6 -
David L. Wallner; Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarborough; Betty N. MacDonald; Michael Schumacher and William W. Barker

- F. [12176](#) Creating Section 8.32 of the Madison General Ordinances to create policies and procedures for removal of personal property from public lands.

A motion was made by Wallner, seconded by Schumacher, to Rerefer to the BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS, due back on 11/24/2008. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: 1 -
Joseph R. Clausius

Ayes: 6 -
Betty Chewning; Emanuel Scarborough; Betty N. MacDonald; Michael Schumacher; David L. Wallner and William W. Barker

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Request from Dean Tydrich of Deano Dock & Lift to occasionally park his workboat at city boat launches.**

Registered Speaker:

Dean Tydrich in support

Weisinger stated that Parks was concerned about the aesthetics at the lake access sites when the barge was sitting there. They were also concerned that this could prompt additional requests. If approval is granted, conditions can be attached to the use. We do not have sufficient staff to enforce this on a daily basis.

A motion was made by Scarborough/Wallner to approve usage for one year

contingent upon working out an agreement with Parks staff. MOTION
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**B. Diseased and Dead Elms and Oaks on Private Property, 2008 Requiring
Condemnation**

A motion was made by MacDonald/Scarborough to POSTPONE PUBLIC
HEARING UNTIL November Park Commission Meeting due to backlog at
testing facility. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT